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# The MADERA COUNTY MAGAZINE

—Published Monthly by the—  
MADERA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOL. I. February, 1915. NO. 1.

*Devoted to  
Development  
and Progress*

Madera Mercury Print

A BIG TREE GROVE







MEASURED  
By The  
POPULATION  
To The Square Mile  
In  
SWITZERLAND

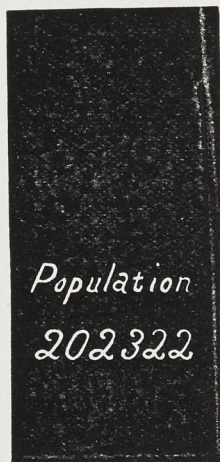
THIS SPACE  
REPRESENTS

MADERA  
COUNTY'S  
OPPORTUNITY

FOR GROWTH

ROOM  
FOR  
480,000  
PEOPLE

1914 POP. 14,000  
1910 POP. 8,368



Population  
202322

DELAWARE  
AREA  
2050 Sq. Mi.

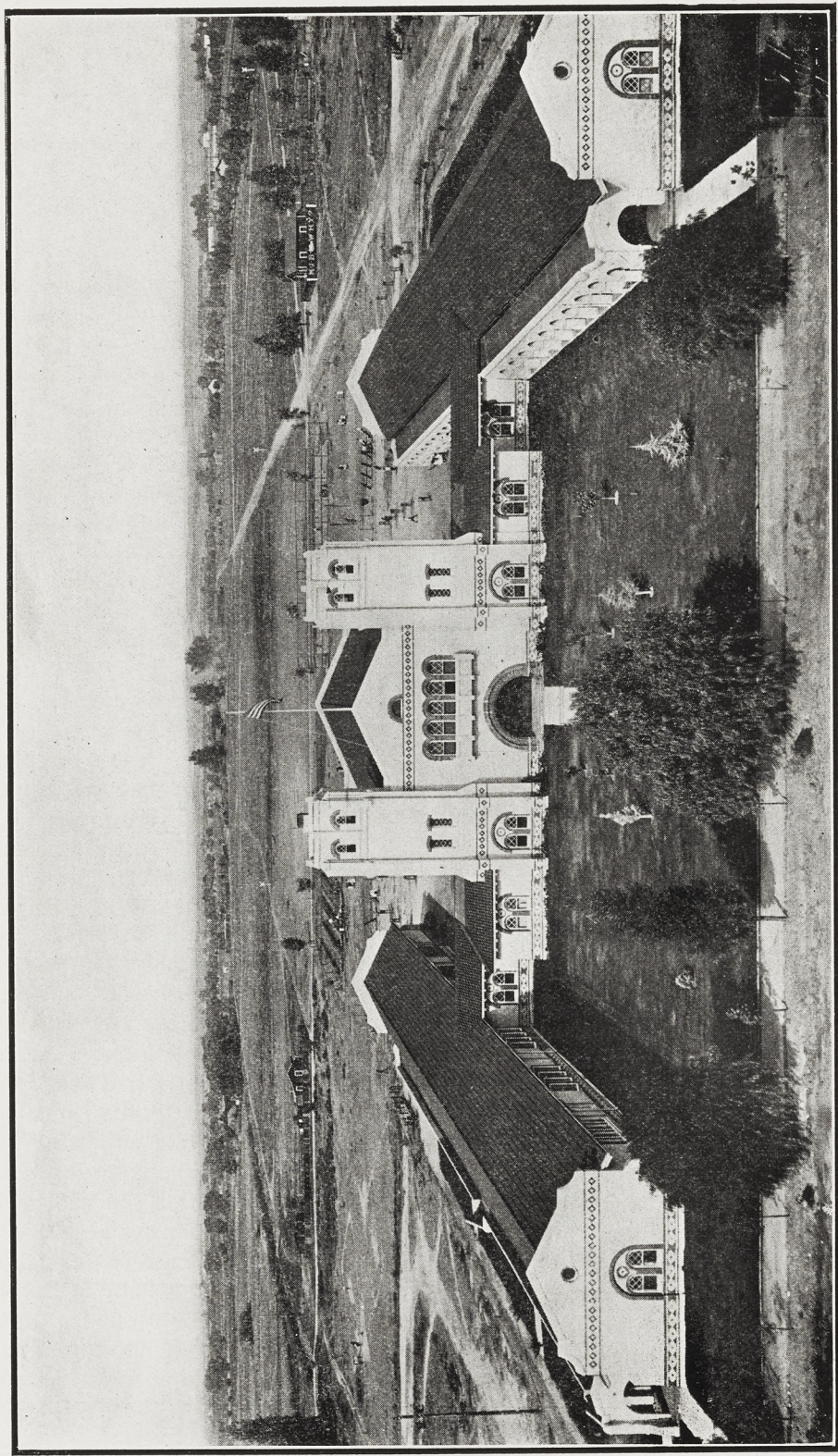


Population  
542610

RHODE ISLAND  
AREA  
1250 Sq. Mi.

MADERA  
COUNTY  
AREA  
2112 Sq. Mi.





Lincoln Grammar School at Madera—Said to be the most beautiful and perfect School Building in California.





## *Is California Still a Pioneer State?*

**I**T is now more than sixty years since California, first an obscure province of Mexico, became known to the world. The discovery of gold in 1849 attracted the attention of the adventurer and aroused the pioneer spirit of the American people. By the overland route, through the dangerous Indian country, across the Isthmus of Panama, whose many marshes menaced the health of the traveler, through the treacherous straits of Magellan, came many thousands of sturdy men and women to try their fortunes in the gold country of California.

Each of these won his fortune or fought with fortune a drawn or losing battle in the mining camps and returned to tell the story or wrote to friends in the East of the matchless opportunities, the boundless natural wealth, and the wonderful climate of California.

These stories hurried toward the west many more thousands who sought not so much fortune as homes in the promised land of California, with the matchless climate and the bountiful soil. Word has gone about the world that nowhere else the sun shines so brightly and the rain falls so gently upon the children of men, nowhere else has the Almighty piled high such wonderful mountains or spread out such beautiful valleys. These stories have peopled California more rapidly than any other part of the American continent. Great cities have been built, rich mines have been opened, mighty torrents have been harnessed for power;

deserts have been reclaimed and transformed, and marvelous wealth has been developed from her soil, and people have begun to wonder if room is left in California for more people.

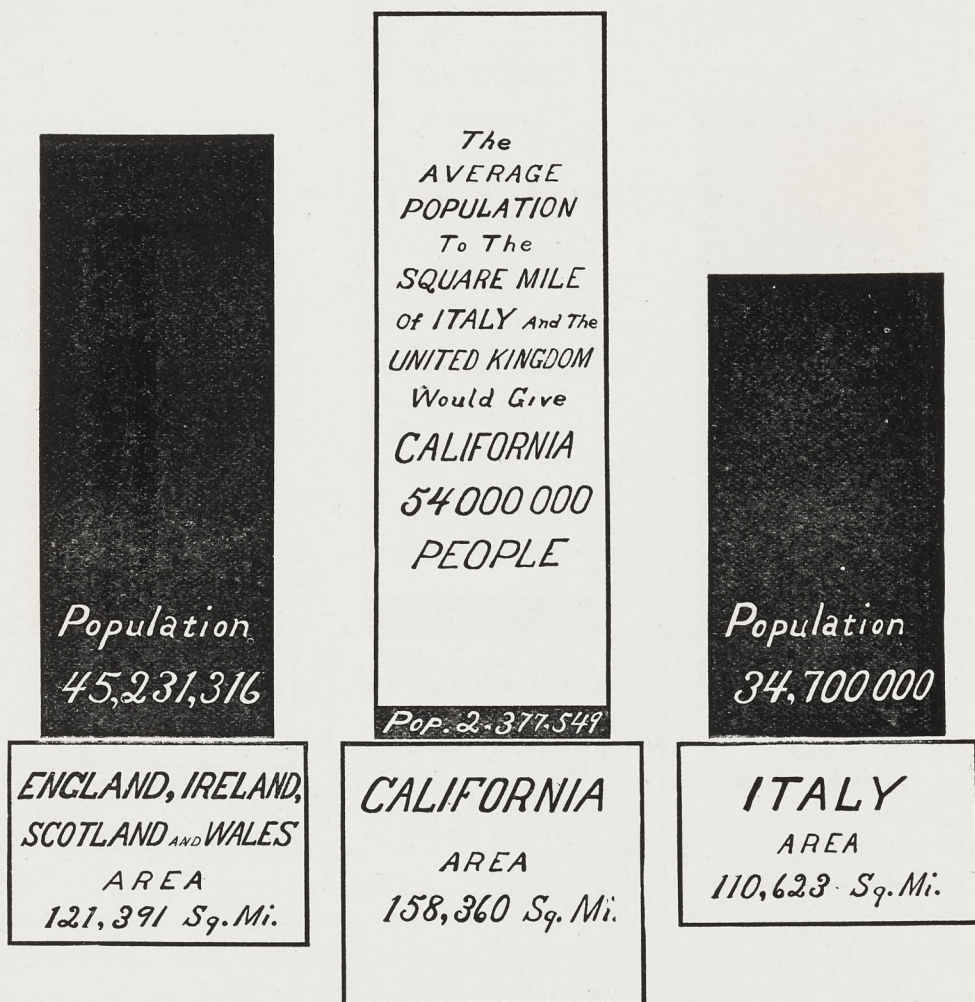
Yet for all this California is still an unsettled country. Its development has scarcely more than begun and there is still almost unlimited opportunity for development and settlement.

The latest census gives California a population of 2,377,549. Little Switzerland with one tenth of the area of California sustains 3,741,971 people, and Switzerland is a rugged country, storm swept and snow laden for a large part of the year, a less inviting and less promising land than the valleys of the high Sierras in California.

California is larger than England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland combined. Her resources in tillable lands, in metals and minerals, in forests, fuel and power, are beyond comparison with those of the British Isles, and her climate superior to that of any of them. She is capable of sustaining as large, if not a larger, population. When California is settled as the United Kingdom is settled she will have a population of 50,000,000. When she is settled even as Connecticut is settled she will have more than thirty millions of people.

A glimpse at the diagram will show that California is still a baby in development. Her situation on the new front of the World's civilization, her opportunity for development as boundless as the great Pacific bespeak for her





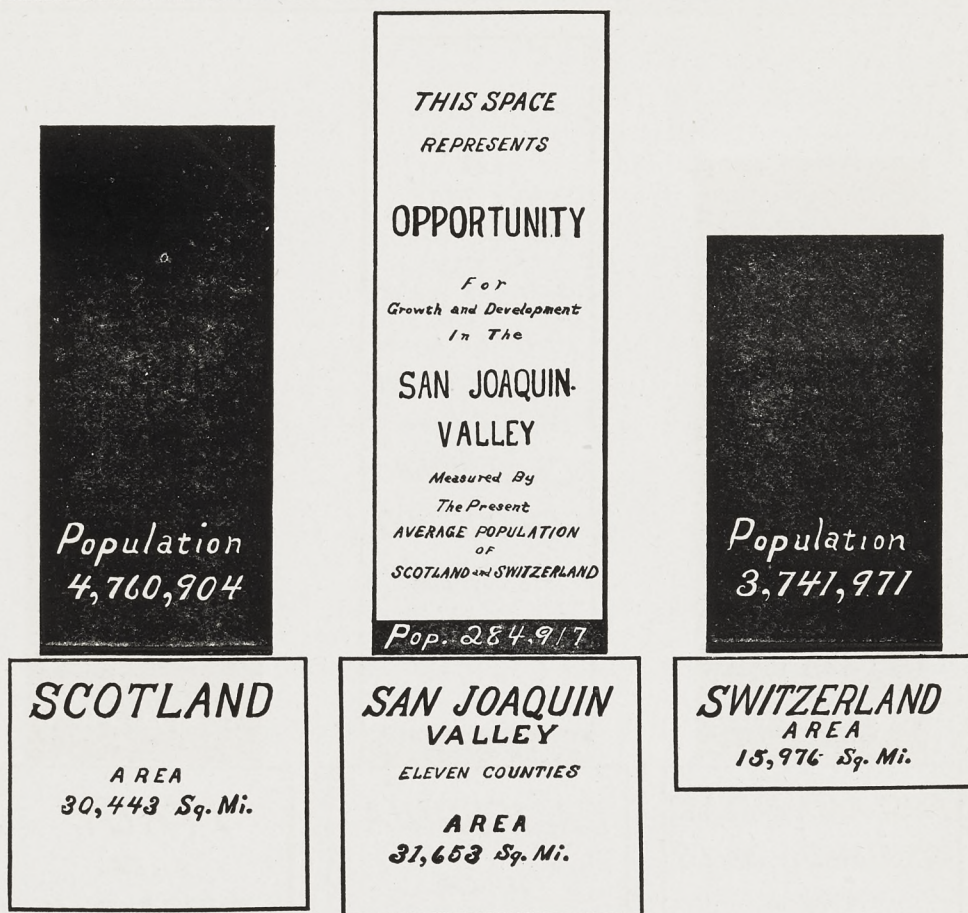
in coming years a degree of growth unequaled by the Atlantic Coast or any European country.

The eleven counties of the San Joaquin Valley watershed, known as the Inland Empire of California have an area of 31,653 square miles, one fifth of the entire state, greater than Scotland or Ireland, and more than twice as great as that of Belgium or Switzerland. They contain the largest area of tillable land in the state, and a very large portion of the timber, mineral and power resources of the State. Yet this great

empire has a population of only 284,917, while Scotland has 4,760,904, Switzerland 3,741,971 people, Ireland 4,390,219 and Belgium 7,432,784.

Madera County is an important part of this Inland Empire, and is fairly representative of the whole of it. It has an area of 2,112 square miles, larger than Delaware or Rhode Island, and larger than several of the German states or French dukedoms. About half of the country is level land, the remainder is the rolling and rugged country of the foothills and mountains of





the high Sierras. It has a wonderful timber belt, its mountains are rich in Gold, Silver, Lead, Tungsten, building stone, and many other metals. It contains the largest and richest iron deposits, outside of the Mesaba Range in Minnesota, in the United States.

Madera County has an immense watershed supplying torrents that wait to be harnessed for irrigation and power purposes. Nearly half of the power now used in the San Joaquin Valley is generated from Madera County and this resource has scarcely been touched. The county is capable of growing practically all of the semi-tropical fruits and vegetables. Its climate is similar to

that of other parts of central California. Even in the mountain sections, on the wind swept, storm tossed, snow laden crests of Mt. Raymond and the Minarets, the climate is still comparable with that of New England and the North Central States.

In 1910 Madera County's population was only 8,368. Rhode Island, not nearly so large had 542,610 and Delaware, not quite so large had 202,322 people. This county alone can support comfortably a larger population than either of these states, and its opportunity for growth and development is measured only by their excess population. There are in the county more



than 400,000 acres of rich valley land, now farmed to grain and grazed to cattle, and large areas of government land in the mountains awaiting the settler and intense cultivation, and immense forests and mineral deposits awaiting the power of capital and labor to develop them. The chart shows graphically the comparative opportunity measured by the development of the bleak Atlantic Coast country, whose resources in fact do not limit the real op-

portunities of California or of Madera county, where a greater development is to be expected in time. When this rich county is developed to the point of the average population to the square mile in Delaware and Rhode Island it will contain 476,678 people. When it is settled in proportion as Switzerland is settled it will have 494,630 people. It is an empire in itself, even yet in a Pioneer state.

## *The Farm Adviser and Farm Bureau*

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WHAT is the Farm Adviser" is a question often asked by the visitor to Madera, who sees T. C. Mayhew, the Madera County Farm Adviser, leaving the court house and starting for the country in his automobile. The Farm Adviser is not yet a common thing in California, and a word of explanation may be of interest to many people.

Madera County is one of the nine counties of California that have a Farm Adviser. He is an employee of the College of Agriculture of the State University and an agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, each of which pay one half of his salary. His expenses to the amount of \$2,000 are paid by the county in which he works.

The Farm Adviser brings the Agricultural College and the Department of Agriculture home to the grown-up farmer who cannot go away to school. He brings in person to the door of the farmer, and gives a human touch to the great storehouse of farm information laboriously gathered through nearly fifty years of experiments and stored away in countless year books and gov-

ernment bulletins.

It is his duty to go to the farms of those who desire his services and to advise them, free of charge, as to soil adaptations, fertilizers, crops, planting, animal husbandry and general farm economy. His business, in short, is to help the farmer make good, and he goes into the most remote districts in the mountains as well as into the well settled valley districts.

There are now in Madera County between two and three thousand new farmers who have come, within three years, from other parts of California, from eastern states or from foreign countries, and are attempting to work out their success in a new country, with a new and different climate, new soil, water and crop conditions, and the most of these men are seeking the aid of the Farm Adviser who has already in the first six months since his appointment, started many of them right. They are the people who feel the greatest need of his help, and who most appreciate his faithful efforts in their behalf.

A Farm Bureau has been organized by the Farmers to facilitate and to co-





**Hog Cholera Serum Demonstration, Annual Meeting, Madera County Farm Bureau at Fairmead**

operate with the Farm Adviser in his work. There are ten units or locals of the County Bureau located at Madera, Fairmead, Chowchilla,, North Fork, Oakhurst, Nipinnawasee, Munich School District, (Dixieland), Eastin School District, Coarse Gold and Raymond. These units hold monthly meetings with the Farm Adviser, who devotes about two days each month to individual work on the farms of the members. At their meetings they discuss with the Adviser and with each other, the problems that confront them, and get the best of one another's experience, as well as the technical help provided.

Several of the units have taken up the problem of farm marketing and co-operative purchasing, have established a labor bureau, and many other helps that can come from co-operative and associated effort.

In the summer of 1914, the Board of Supervisors of Madera County, appreciating the difficult situation confronting many new farmers in the colonies and on homesteads and elsewhere in the county and realizing the benefits to be derived from scientific advice and help on the farms of the County appropriated \$2,000 for expenses and applied to the State University for the appointment of a Farm Adviser. The application was granted, the County being fourth in the state to comply with the University's conditions, and T. C. Mayhew, was appointed for Madera County. Mr. Mayhew arrived in October of that year, and since then has been gradually winning his way with the farmers, and establishing the Farm Adviser as a permanent institution in Madera County.



## *A Start From Strawberries*

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**T**O build a home and develop a farm from a patch of strawberries may sound like a fairy tale, but this, in brief, is the story of R. M. Hobbs of the Fairmead Colony, one of the many farmers who have located on the old Sharon grain fields at Fairmead and are making good.

Mr. Hobbs came to Fairmead in March, 1913, and purchased twenty acres for which he gave up practically all of his worldly goods. He tells the following story to the editor:

"In March, when I came here, I had to have something that would give me quick returns and enable me to get a start, so I planted strawberries. I set out 1,000 plants. In less than two months the berries were ready for the market. I sent a load every day until the end of the season.

"That put me in a position to plant alfalfa. I bored a twelve inch well which gave me all the water I needed even for much more land than I have. That three inch pump, with an eight horse power motor throws five hundred gallons of water a minute, enough to flood the entire place. It cost me quite a little money, but the strawberries paid for it all the first year.

"I sowed ten acres of alfalfa, and the past season, in four cuttings it gave me seventy tons of hay. The new creamery has strengthened the hay market locally quite a little, and besides it is now paying me sixty dollars a month for the butter fat I send to them.

"Do you waste the skim milk", Mr. Hobbs was asked. "Waste? Not a bit of it, he rejoined. Just come around

here and see the fine hogs I am raising on the skim milk, with a little alfalfa. They're one of the best paying propositions I have. I have sent for some thoroughbred Berkshire hogs and next season I am going to have three times as many as I have now.

"Then, you think alfalfa and hogs pay better than fruit?" we asked. "No," he said, "I can't say that I do. I'm planning now to plant twelve acres to figs and peaches and pecans next year, leaving the alfalfa grow between a part of the trees till they begin to bear. I believe pretty thoroughly in a diversified crop. Then you have something coming in all the year around.

"I suppose hiring help cuts into your profits somewhat?" Mr. Hobbs was asked. "No", he said, "I do all the work on the place myself with the aid of just two horses.

"Then you can say that this neat little home and this farm was founded on a box of strawberries," we remarked as we drove away. "Quite a few boxes", he corrected. And as we looked back at the little house and the substantial farm buildings and well kept place we remarked that what this man has done, many men can do on the thousands of acres of grazing land in Madera County and many other parts of the great San Joaquin Valley.

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**If you do not find the desired information in this magazine, a letter or a postal addressed to the Madera County Chamber of Commerce will receive prompt and careful attention.**



## Madera County Magazine

Published by the Madera County  
Chamber of Commerce

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Subscription One Dollar a Year.  
Advertising rates upon application.

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Sample Copies furnished on request to  
any address.

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All communications should be addressed  
to the Madera County Magazine or the  
Madera County Chamber of Commerce.

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### FOREWORD

To the purpose of educating the people of Madera County concerning the wonderful resources of the county in which they live and the rapid development now and for several years past, taking place within it, and to the further purpose of supplying to interested persons everywhere, as full information as possible regarding the opportunities afforded by the County, and its potential resources, this Magazine is dedicated

### *Greeting to the Exposition*

**M**ADERA County joins in the welcome of California to all the world in 1915. Madera County further extends to every Exposition visitor an invitation to see during the Exposition year and afterward, this County, declared to be the most versatile county in point of production in the state of California.

The county is represented at the Panama California Exposition in the San Joaquin Valley Building, pronounced by many the most effective and va-

ried exhibit at the San Diego Fair.

It is also represented at the Panama Pacific Exposition in the San Joaquin Valley section of the California Counties Building by the great collective exhibit of the eight counties and by its own individual exhibits.

The visitor at either Exposition is invited to stop at Madera on the way to or from either exposition, and to accept the offer of the Madera County Chamber of Commerce to show, as far as possible every visitor, without charge or obligation a limited portion of the County. Notwithstanding her representation at the two great World Fairs of California by creditable exhibits it is still the belief of Madera County people that "Madera's best exhibit is Madera County," and this invitation is therefore heartily extended.

Visitors are urged, if intending to stop at Madera to accept this invitation, to write to the Madera County Chamber of Commerce, stating the day they will be there or to arrange at the San Joaquin Valley information desk at the San Francisco or San Diego Exposition for a definite day.

Madera is on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The State Highway passes through the town. Storey, two miles from Madera, is the Madera Station on the Santa Fe Railroad which passes through Madera County. Holders of transcontinental tickets on the Santa Fe will be met at Storey Station by a representative of the Madera County Chamber of Commerce, if notice of the time of arrival is given beforehand.

Stop-over privileges are given on all Exposition tickets from Eastern states, and the holders of such tickets are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity to see Madera County.





One of the Giant Redwoods in the Mountain Country of Madera County



## *Madera, the Gateway to Yosemite*

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THE City of Madera, the county seat of Madera County, claims to be the Gateway to the Yosemite Valley, and the mountain wonders back of it and surrounding it. For more than forty years, beginning even before the time of the railroad, stages have been regularly run from Madera to the Yosemite Valley by way of Wawona. Many hundreds of famous travelers have visited the Yosemite by way of the old stages, and have come back to tell the world of its wonders, of the mighty precipices, the varied and beautiful waterfalls, and the splendid color effects, a truthful picture of which cannot be painted in any language or by any artist.

Once the government of the United States refused to admit the automobile to the Yosemite National Park. A squad of soldiers was posted at every entrance to forbid the motor driver the privilege of the park, open to the bicyclist, the pedestrian, the two wheeled cart and the antiquated stage. Now this policy is reversed and the motorist is permitted to view from his own machine the wonders of the Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, located on the boundary of Madera County.

It is said that the best way to see the Yosemite is to go by way of Madera and Wawona, getting the first view from Inspiration Point, where at a turn of the road all of the wonders of the Valley burst out in one grand view that impresses itself indelibly upon the memory of the traveler. Artists Point and Glacier Point, reached by the same

road afford excellent views of the Valley.

The Mariposa Big Trees, in themselves, are worth a transcontinental trip. Older than any other living thing, larger than any other trees in the world, already mighty when Adam slept in the Garden of Eden, their majesty has brought to his knees in prayerful worship many a traveler who paid little homage to the living God.

There are two roads from Madera to Wawona. The first goes by way of Raymond, Grub Gulch, Ahwanee and Miami to Wawona. This road is now traveled by the automobile stages which make daily trips each way from Madera to Wawona. It follows the original trail route of the Yosemite Indians, zealously guarded by them from the white men, and clustered about by many mysteries and traditions.

The second, and a favorite road with motorists, goes from Madera by way of the Fresno River to Coarse Gold then to Oakhurst, formerly Fresno Flats, across the Ahwahnee Valley and thence to Wawona. This road has been traveled by many of the world's famous men and women, including several presidents of the United State. It passes within a mile of the large lumber mill of the Madera Sugar Pine Company at Sugar Pine, and follows the lumber flume for a considerable part of the way.

Both roads are in good condition throughout the year, and both are dotted with telephone and automobile conveniences, as well as hotel accommodations.



Madera is the starting point from the railroad for the automobile stage travel, and the point at which the motorist leaves the State Highway. It is a town of 3,500 people, has two miles of paved streets, is well lighted, and has many attractive homes. Its public buildings are unusually attractive and

excite the comment of every visitor.

There are two hotels providing excellent accommodations for the tourist and the visitors who may wish to stay over night or to tarry for a time. Three well equipped garages are ready to satisfy the needs of the motorist.

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## *Fifty Percent. Profit*

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In 1914 the value of the products of the farms, orchards, mines and forests of Madera County, according to figures compiled by the editors, amounted to \$7,036,741. The total assessed value of the property of the county for the same year was \$13,910,950. It appears therefore that the production for the year was 50 1-4 per cent of the assessed value of the property of the county, a very gratifying rate of income.

A better conception of these figures may be had by dividing the annual production among the estimated 14,000 people of the county. This gives an annual income for every man, woman and child in the county of \$500.26, or on an average, an income of \$2,001.04 for each household of four persons.

Some one may say that the census of 1910 shows that the population of the county is only 8,368 instead of 14,000. In that event, it must be admitted that the average per capita income was \$840.92 for each man, woman and child, or an average household income of \$3368.68.

When you consider that this gross income is from the land, from the orchards and farms, the mines and forests; that it is actual production in

which the teachers and preachers, the merchants, the doctors and lawyers have no part, it appears that the average Madera County producer is in a very much more satisfactory situation than even the figures indicate.

In passing it may be noticed that the estimated population of 14,000 shows a very gratifying growth over the census figures of 1910, which show only 8,368 people. The increase indicated is over 67 per cent for a period of less than four years.

The agricultural and horticultural production of Madera County for the year 1914 is shown to be \$4,888,080. The mineral products amounted to \$548,661, and the lumber to \$1,600,000.

A great increase in the farm and



Pink Beans, Grant Wills' Ranch,  
Chowchilla



orchard produce of the county may be reasonably expected during the next few years. During the past four years more than 250,000 acres of grain and grazing lands of the large pioneer ranches have been subdivided and placed on the market to provide homes for more people. It is estimated that more than a thousand farmers have located on this land within the three years last past. There is still a very large amount of this land (about 200,000 acres) to be subdivided when the demand shall reach it. All of this land

is adapted to intensive cultivation, to the growth of fruits, small fruits, vegetables and garden truck and dairying and give promise of very rapid settlement.

Besides the rich valley land which has called the attention of the settler, there is a large area of foot-hill land offered for the taking by Uncle Sam. More than 300 homesteaders have made their selections from this domain in three years and are busily clearing and planting their lands and adding to the production of the county.

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## *A New Town on Chowchilla Ranch*

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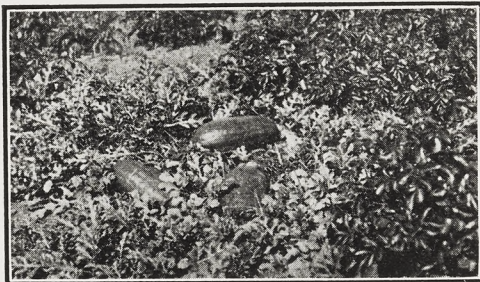
**A**NOTHER new town has been born on the old Chowchilla Ranch. This town will be christened "Robertson" in honor of the President of the United States Farm Land Company. It is located eleven miles south-west of Chowchilla at the end of the Robertson Boulevard.

Robertson is located nearly in the center of the famous Chowchilla Ranch, which was subdivided a little over two years ago, and which has been settled with remarkable, if not with record breaking rapidity.

The new town may be reached from the lines of the Southern Pacific, from Chowchilla by way of the Chowchilla Pacific Railway, of which for the present it is the terminus. Robertson Boulevard, a fine macadamized highway runs from the State Highway at Chowchilla to the townsite. The new official "Yosemite-to-the-Sea" Highway, now being graded by the joint efforts of the County of Madera and

the United States Farm Land Company will run through the town from east to west.

Stine & Kendrick of San Francisco will establish a local office at Robertson, a post office will be opened as soon as arrangements can be made and it is reported that several store buildings will be started very shortly. Altogether the new town gives promise of as great a growth as that of its neighbor and two year old sister, Chowchilla, located eleven miles to the north-west.



Melons Flavored With Nature's Best  
Grow Well in Madera County



## *Some Opportunities in Madera County, California*

THERE is a feeling in the minds of many people that there is no longer any opportunity left in California for the producer, that every line of Agriculture is overdone or so nearly overdone that one is not warranted in making an investment. A consideration of the facts, however, shows that this is a mistaken notion. Mr. Francis Hope of the San Joaquin Valley Counties Association has made some very interesting studies of this question from the State Agricultural reports and the United States Customs reports.

Madera County offers abundant opportunity along many lines. Besides being one of the banner raisin sections of California, this County is specially adapted to Olives, Walnuts, Figs, Almonds, Alfalfa and Dairying and Poultry as well as Peaches, Apricots, Apples and many other fruits.

There is a special opportunity in Madera County for the planting of olive orchards. The soil and climate are especially adapted to this fruit. There is no scale or other pest to bother them, they bear well, and in proportion to returns require little care. There are now in the county 825 acres in olives. Of this area 640 acres is irrigated, the remainder receiving no water except the usual rainfall. W. A. Moore, C. M. Petty and C. S. Perkins of Madera are able to testify as to the results they have received and the value they place on their olive groves, which are now coming into good bearing condition.

There are now about 18,000 acres

of olives in California, but the field is still practically as good if not better than when the first olive tree was planted. Last year the United States imported 3,946,076 gallons of pickles and 5,840,359 gallons of oil, and has no export trade either in pickles or oil. The California olive products are finding equal favor with the American consumer with the European importations. California last year produced only 1,400,000 gallons of pickles and 1,500,000 gallons of oil. There is still an American market, which is rapidly growing for more than three times the present olive production of California.

Who plants an olive tree favors his descendants even to the tenth generation. The olive is long lived. There are still living in Palestine many olive trees which were in their prime when Christ trod the dreary road to Calvary. The olive begins to bear profitably in Madera County after the fifth year, and with any reasonable care will continue to bear and improve for sixty, seventy, a hundred or perhaps many more years.

Last year the United States consumed 24,200,000 pounds of figs. Of these 16,000,000 pounds were imported from Turkey, and only 6,000,000 pounds were produced in California. The San Joaquin Valley fig is the equal of the Asiatic Fig in every respect, and is steadily gaining in favor with the American consumer.

The Madera County fig commands the top price on the market on account of superior sugar content. The black fig, Calimyrna and White Adriatic figs



do equally well, and are equally profitable, the Calimyrna requiring greater care in fertilization. There are large areas of fig land in Madera County to be had at from \$100 to \$150 per acre.

The fig begins to bear at four years and improves with age. It develops into an enormous tree and yields great quantities of the luscious fruit. There are single fig trees at Smyrna, owned by several families in common and yielding enough fruit to be their entire support.

Seven million dozens of eggs are imported into California every year. An opportunity is afforded in the egg market to the enterprising poultryman in this section. The climate is adapted to poultry, and good profits can be made from eggs and broilers.

Probably the widest, if not the most profitable, opportunity offered in Madera County today is in the Dairy industry. Cheap land, abundance of water and an excellent alfalfa and forage producing climate, make this section especially favorable to the dairy industry. Land can be had at from \$75.00 to \$150.00 per acre or improved land can be purchased at from \$150 to \$300 per acre on the cream routes of the Madera Co-Operative or the Sierra Creameries.

The San Joaquin Valley produces more than a third of the butter product of California, but there was still imported into California last year 40,--000,000 pounds of butter and 3,922,-228 pounds of cheese. The San Francisco market quotations on butter last year were the highest in the United States. Notice the following figures given by Mr. Hope showing the following average market quotations for the year: San Francisco, 34.12 cents per

pound, Elgin, Illinois, 30.72 cents per pound, and Iowa, 28.5 cents per pound.

The butter demand, by reason of increasing urban population, is growing more rapidly probably than in any other section of the county. The Madera County producer of butter, of milk, cream and cheese will find a constantly increasing demand for his product and the best price obtainable in the United States.

The United States is now importing from Europe more than four times as many almonds as are produced in California. When profits of from \$40 to \$350 per acre from land costing not to exceed \$300 per acre developed in bearing almonds, can be realized, a certain opportunity appears in Madera County in Almond growing.

Southern California now produces a large portion of the English walnuts of California, but the San Joaquin Valley is not less adapted to their successful growth. Here the trees grow rapidly and bear well and regularly. The soil in many parts of Madera County, as elsewhere in the great Valley, is adapted to their growth, and the climatic conditions are favorable. The limited



**This Olive Orchard near Madera  
Brings in Big Income**



plantings at the present time demonstrate the feasibility and the profit of this crop. Nor is the walnut business outdone. The importations into the United States last year exceeded by 2,662,000 pounds the total product of California.

These are a few of the opportunities which California has not out-grown, and which Madera County has to offer. This County is one of the four great raisin counties of California. The proper soil and the best maturing and curing climatic conditions make the county specially adapted to this popular fruit, and good profits are to be made from it.

The California raisin now almost entirely controls the American market and the California Raisin Exchange is going after the European Market. During the past three years the price of raisins has been steadily advancing and the profits from their production increasing.

137,400,000 pounds of raisins were grown in the San Joaquin Valley last year, principally in Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Mer-



Eleven Pumpkins on Single Vine,  
E. F. Boyer, ranch near Chowchilla

ced Counties. The importance of this production is seen in the fact that all other sections of California produced only 12,800,000 pounds, and Spain which formerly supplied the world with raisins produces only 45,000,000 pounds of inferior fruit.

Great though the raisin industry is in California, it still affords an unexcelled opportunity to the new comer in Madera County. A large part of the land of the county is adapted to the raisin grape, it is easy to plant and care for, it requires little irrigation, and its fruit is not a drug on the market at any time.

## *The Story of Joe Kinsman, Pioneer*

**H**IGH up in the mountains of Madera County, where the Big Shut-Eye and the Little Shut-Eye stand high over the gorge of the foaming San Joaquin, lives old Joe Kinsman, the pioneer resident of the county and one of the first Americans in California. The four winds of Heaven blow their breezes through his open lodge on the edge of the great Chiquita Forest from which the wrinkled old squaw, Red

Oats, gathers acorns, and grinds them for bread for her son-in-law.

Kinsman was a squaw man, but for all that a white man, who saw the world when it was new and worth while. And to his credit it may be said that he is one of the few white men who kept faith with the Indian woman who ministered to him and bore his children in the pioneer days.

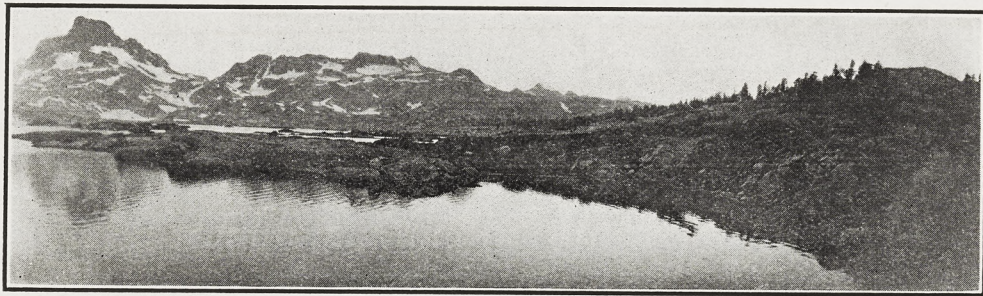
This is the story of Joe Kinsman, the '49er and the Madera County pioneer.





Eleven hundred gallons of water each minute from pumping plant on Hourikan Ranch  
near Fairmead, Madera County





One of the Many Picturesque Lakes in Madera County's Mountains

"There are not many of us left now in California who came with the first gold rush.

"When I reached San Francisco, it was merely a landing place and a trading post for travelers and wanderers. There were a few stores and a post office, but the real business of the town in those days was gambling and drinking. The water front for blocks was lined with whiskey barrels which you had to climb over in landing. I worked there as a longshoreman for eight dollars a day and my dinner and nearly starved at it.

"The mining fever was in the air then, and wages, however large looked small compared to the stories of the wonderful nuggets of gold that might be dug out of the earth. I went up the River to Sacramento on my way to the mining country about Mormon Island, now Folsom, in the fall of '49. Then Sam Brannan was erecting the first building in Sacramento to be used as a store. Brannan was the representative of the Mormon Church in that section, and collected the tithes for Brigham Young. When the prophet sent for his money Brannan sent back word that when the Lord called for his tithes he could have them, and converted the money to the building of his own fortune.

"From Sacramento I went here and there, wherever rumor gave promise of gold. In these wanderings I made my first trip south along the eastern rim of the San Joaquin Valley. Then there was no Madera, no Merced, no Modesto, no Fresno. All of the settlements were in the foothills. The entire valley country was desolate of human habitations. In places where now there are blooming orchards and verdant fields of alfalfa and the homes of many men the valley was a desert without any vegetation. At other places where water was plenty, the wild grass grew so high as to conceal mounted horsemen. Antelope, deer, elk and wild horses ranged at will over the valley and the adjacent foot-hills.

"Before the white men came the Indians lived in the foot-hills in great number. For their own protection against fire and their enemies, they burned the brush and undergrowth annually. The country, when I first saw it, was alive with wild game. It was no uncommon thing to see a herd of eighty or one hundred wild deer.

"I went south to Kings River and back to Mariposa. Provisions were very high. I paid Jim Savage a hundred dollars for a sack of flour near where Mariposa now stands. But the Indians paid higher prices than the



white men. Savage shortly afterward started a store at Fresno Crossing near Coarse Gold. I remember one time, I happened to be in the store when a squaw came in and asked for some raisins. Savage put the scales on the counter and told her to put what gold she had in one of the pans; then he balanced it with raisins. I asked him if raisins were worth their weight in gold and he said, "Oh, well, she doesn't want the gold; what she wants is raisins, now."

"Coarse Gold in those days was a very rich mining country. I went there after mining a while at Mariposa. I received my first letter there after leaving Massachusetts, and had to pay three dollars for its delivery from San Francisco. I paid twenty-six dollars for a long handled shovel for my mining equipment.

"Old Doc Leach was at Jones' Store below Coarse Gold at this time amputating legs with a hacksaw and a butcher knife, without any anesthetic, and stitching wounds with sack twine.

"Those were the days when the mountains of Madera County gave up their gold. In 1851 Broughton took out \$160,000, from a digging where Krohn's store now stands at Coarse Gold. One pan below there yielded forty ounces of pure gold. The mines at Fine Gold, Hildreth, and Grub Gulch at this time all gave rich reward to the miners.

"The first towns in Madera County were in the foothills. One hundred and fifty votes were cast at Coarse Gold precinct in 1856 for President. Of these only one was a Republican.

"In the fifties settlement developed toward the valley, and the settlers turned their attention to farming, cattle grazing and sheep-raising. Johnathan Rea brought the first sheep from Mexico in 1855. Arnold settled on the Daulton Ranch in 1856. Jerry Brown located at the Weakley Ranch and John Newton below Buchanan Hollow in the same year.

"Wild oats then grew six feet high on the Daulton Ranch and the oats, shattered out by the winds, literally covered the ground. The first grapes in Madera County, the Mission variety, were planted on the San Joaquin River below Friant in 1854 and some of the are still bearing.

"I left Coarse Gold thirty-nine years ago and came up here on Chiquita Ridge among the mountains where plums, gooseberries, huckleberries, wild grapes and other fruits grow in abundance. I have lived here ever since. The mountains are pretty good friends when a man is old and unafraid. I am eighty-seven years old now, but I went down to North Fork on horseback to vote the last election day. I have been a voter now in California for sixty-four years and I hope to vote at the next election."





## *New Life to Madera County Mining*

ACCORDING to a report recently made by J. C. Hoxie, mineral expert of the San Joaquin Valley Counties' Association, there is now great activity in re-opening some of the old time producing mines of Madera County. In addition to work on mines operated for the past few years several new mines have been opened and many of the famous old mines of the county, long idle for various reasons, are being opened up or will be shortly, by interested capitalists.

A company has recently been formed to work the Enterprise Mine in the Grub Gulch region, which in former years made several fortunes for different owners. The new company has ample means for necessary development work, and rich returns are looked forward to by mining men.

William Ewere of Fresno has bonded the Willow Creek Mine at O'Neals and will begin operations at an early date. Other parties have bonded the Hanover Mine and other claims from George and Rube Williams, and will develop them during the present year. In the Hildreth district the same parties have made arrangements to un-water and investigate the old Abbey Mine.

This mine several years ago was worked to a depth of 700 feet and produced between one and two million dollars.

McDonald Brothers have bonded their mine, four miles south of Hildreth, to Reedley capitalists, who are now installing machinery and erecting a five stamp mill on the property.

Though the mining regions of Grub Gulch, Potter Ridge, Coarse Gold, O'Neals, Fine Gold, Quartz Mountain and Hildreth, have been worked at various times for many years, these districts, with the general distribution of electric power and steadily improving transportation facilities, still offer excellent inducements to prospectors and capitalists.

In the vicinity of Coarse Gold, electric power is now being installed by the San Joaquin Light and Power Company. As a result the Texas Flat, Waterloo and Last Chance Mines, are being cleaned out and retimbered, and these rich mines will be operated again by a company of Seattle capitalists on a royalty basis.

Altogether the mining outlook for 1915 in Madera County is very promising.









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